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IN PRO PER  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TAYLOR THOMSON,  
  
Plaintiff and Counterclaim  
  
Defendant  
vs.  
ASHLEY RICHARDSON,  
  
Defendant and Counterclaim  
Plaintiff

Case No.: 2:23-cv-04669-MEMF-MAR

RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION  
TO DEFENDANT ASHLEY  
RICHARDSON'S MOTION TO COMPEL  
AND REQUEST FOR SANCTIONS

## **I. Introduction**

Plaintiff's opposition reframes a simple scheduling dispute into a claim of misconduct by a pro se litigant. The actual record shows:

- A. Defendant repeatedly noticed Plaintiff's deposition, met and conferred in good faith, produced substantial discovery, and offered multiple reasonable locations and formats;
- B. Plaintiff refused to provide a single concrete date, conditioned cooperation on unrelated demands, and engaged in procedural conduct inconsistent with the Rules.

RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT ASHLEY RICHARDSON'S MOTION TO COMPEL AND REQUEST FOR SANCTIONS - 1

1 These facts — supported by attached declarations and evidence — reveal a consistent pattern of  
2 avoidance, procedural noncompliance, and extrajudicial tactics designed to burden and  
3 intimidate rather than resolve the scheduling issue.

4  
5 **II. Defendant Satisfied Rule 37(a)(1) and L.R. 37-1**

6 Plaintiff's assertion that "no meet and confer occurred" is contradicted by their  
7 own admissions:

- 8 A. In September 2024, Defendant noticed Plaintiff's deposition; Plaintiff responded they  
9 were unavailable but never proposed a specific alternate date.
- 10 B. In January and February 2025, Defendant again sought confirmation; Plaintiff  
11 declined and instead imposed unrelated preconditions.
- 12 C. Defendant offered to proceed at a neutral Los Angeles court reporter's office,  
13 Plaintiff's counsel's office, or remotely via Rule 30(b)(4).
- 14 D. It is documented that a meet-and-confer took place on May 6, 2025, prior to the filing  
15 of the motion to compel Plaintiff's deposition. This documentation is attached as  
16 (Exhibit A, B).
- 17 C. Defendant conferred in good faith (by email and phone) numerous times, and then  
18 moved only after Plaintiff refused to provide dates and attempted to make deposition  
19 scheduling contingent on unrelated discovery demands. That satisfies Rule 37(a)(1)  
20 and the spirit of L.R. 37-1.

21 Improper Use of Discovery Materials for Media Purposes — In July 2025, a  
22 reporter contacted Defendant about a private text message between Defendant and a third-party  
23 CEO, stating that Plaintiff's spokesman had pointed it out for an article. That text was not public  
24 and was later filed on the docket — suggesting it was used strategically to influence press  
25 coverage, in violation of the intended purpose of discovery.

26 Harassment of Family Members — On August 5, 2025, just three days after  
27 Plaintiff's counsel sent a threatening email to Defendant, Plaintiff dispatched an investigator  
28 from Guidepost Solutions to Defendant's elderly mother's and sister's homes, insinuating  
misconduct by Defendant. The encounter caused Defendant's mother to collapse from stress and  
require medical care.

1 This conduct undermines Plaintiff's credibility when they accuse Defendant of  
2 procedural noncompliance. It shows that the actual pattern is Plaintiff using the procedural  
3 process as both a litigation and intimidation tool.

4  
5 Requested finding: The Court should find Defendant made a good-faith effort to  
6 resolve the issue; any remaining dispute warrants a court-set date rather than denial.

7 **III. Plaintiff's Sequencing Condition Violates Rule 26(d)**

8 Plaintiff argues that Defendant must complete all discovery responses before  
9 Plaintiff may be deposed. The Federal Rules expressly reject that sequencing requirement:  
10 "methods of discovery may be used in any sequence" and "discovery by one party does not  
11 require another to delay its own." Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(d).

12 This unilateral condition is not supported by law and has functioned only to stall  
13 Plaintiff's deposition.

14 **IV. Procedural Misconduct Prejudiced Defendant's Ability to Litigate**

15  
16 This is not a single scheduling dispute in isolation — it occurs against the  
17 backdrop of a pattern of procedural misconduct:

18 Repeated Failure to Properly Serve Filings — Opposing counsel has filed  
19 substantive motions and declarations without serving Defendant, in violation of FRCP 5(a)(1)  
20 and Local Rule 5-3.1.1 of the Central District of California, which require that all filings be  
21 served on every other party who is not registered for electronic service. Defendant is not  
22 registered for CM/ECF electronic service, and no stipulation has been made for alternative  
23 service under FRCP 5(b)(2)(E).

24 A. Example: On October 30, 2024, Plaintiff filed a TRO containing private text messages  
25 without serving Defendant. Defendant learned of it only when contacted by a reporter  
26 after the ruling.

27 B. Multiple discovery-related filings and oppositions have also not been served, forcing  
28 Defendant to monitor the docket manually.

1 **V. Sanctions Request Is Baseless and Punitive**

2 Defendant has:

- 3 A. Produced over 1,000 documents;  
4 B. Served over 40 pages of interrogatory responses;  
5 C. Offered multiple reasonable deposition formats and locations.

6 Plaintiff's "non-participation" narrative is contradicted by the record. Any  
7 remaining gaps can be addressed through targeted supplementation — not by conditioning  
8 deposition scheduling or seeking punitive sanctions.

9  
10 Moreover, Defendant is self-represented and in severe financial distress as a direct  
11 result of Plaintiff's litigation conduct. Sanctions would serve no remedial purpose and would be  
12 grossly disproportionate.

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14  
15 **VI. Relief**

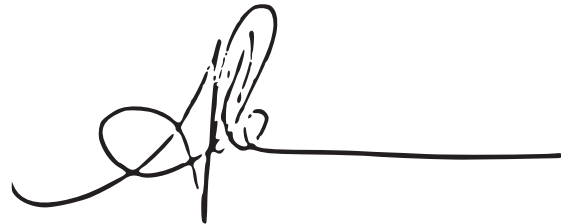
16  
17 Given the above, Defendant respectfully requests that the Court:

- 18 1. Order Plaintiff to appear for deposition within 21 days at a neutral Los Angeles court-  
19 reporting facility or remotely via Rule 30(b)(4); or require Plaintiff to supply three firm  
20 dates within 7 days;  
21 2. Deny Plaintiff's request for fees and sanctions; and  
22 3. Recognize that Plaintiff's refusal to provide a date, combined with their procedural  
23 noncompliance and extra-judicial intimidation tactics, justifies court intervention.

1 Respectfully submitted,

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3 Ashley Richardson

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10  
11 Dated August 14, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AR', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

13  
14 Ashley Richardson

15 In Pro Per